REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed amendments and remarks is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 3, 5-7, 10, 12-14, 17, and 19-29 have been cancelled. Claims 30-33 have been added. Claims 1-2, 4, 8-9, 11, 15-16, 18, and 30-33 remain in the application.

ARGUMENT

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Maliszewski, et al. (US Patent No. 6,662,060)(hereinafter '060).

An embodiment of the present invention is a method and system for protecting content being rendered by a player application even when the content is also sent to an enhancement module such as a plug-in. In one embodiment, the original content is protected by only transferring a version of the content to the enhancement module that is downsampled. That is, the original high fidelity, high value content is never transferred to the enhancement module. Instead, the content is downsampled into a lower fidelity form that it is still useful for the purposes of enhancement module processing, but is not useful or desirable for other purposes (such as normal rendering of the content for enjoyment by the user). Thus, a hacker or pirate will have no motivation to design an enhancement module that misappropriates the content available to the enhancement module because the only content the enhancement module may access is in a form that is of low fidelity or low quality.

The enhancement module comprises a plug-in designed and developed by any entity. In many cases, the enhancement module will be provided by some entity other than the entity that designed, developed, or distributed the player application. For example, company A may distribute the player application, but individual B may provide the enhancement module to add a new feature to the player application that

enhances the user's experience in using the player application. Company A may not trust individual B with high value decrypted content. The present invention protects the content being processed by the player application using the tamper resistant techniques as well as by limiting the fidelity or quality of the content allowed to be transferred to the enhancement module. In effect, since the enhancement module may be provided by an unknown entity, the player application does not trust the enhancement module to securely handle the high value digital content. Instead, the enhancement module only is allowed to process lower fidelity content to generate such features as real-time visual displays based at least in part on the lower fidelity content.

Implementing the present invention into an existing player application results in a minimum of modifications to the player application design, yet provides the desired security in protecting the high value content even when user-supplied or other third party-supplied visual enhancement modules are employed.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to more particularly recite the present invention. As currently presented, these claims recite that secure content-based user experience enhancement in a player device for rendering digital content may be accomplished by accepting encrypted first fidelity digital content; decrypting the encrypted first fidelity digital content into decrypted first fidelity digital content; audibly rendering the decrypted first fidelity digital content for perception by the user; downsampling the decrypted first fidelity digital content into downsampled digital content having a second fidelity, the second fidelity lower than the first fidelity; and displaying images by a visual enhancement module based on the downsampled digital content having the second fidelity.

The '060 patent does not teach or suggest a visual enhancement module which operates only on downsampled digital content of a second, lower fidelity while the player device (decryption agent/renderer) renders the first, higher fidelity digital content. The '060 patent discloses the use of title specific parameters for use in customizing the visual presentation of the content (see col. 3, line 55 to col. 4, line 56), but the usage of the title specific parameters is wholly within the security perimeter of the DVD access module (which is protected by tamper resistance

techniques). A third party plug-in module cannot access the title specific parameters. In contrast, in the present invention only the low value, low fidelity downsampled content is available outside the security perimeter of the decryption agent/renderer (as protected by tamper resistant software techniques). High value, high fidelity content is only decrypted and rendered within the security perimeter of the decryption agent/renderer. The low value, low fidelity downsampled content may be used by the visual enhancement module (e.g., a plug-in module available from an untrusted third party). This concept is contained in the claims as presented.

The '060 patent was not designed for, and does not teach or suggest this concept. The present inventor was one of the co-inventors of the '060 patent. He built upon the work done for the '060 patent to solve the problem of a third party plug-in module gaining unauthorized access to the decrypted high value content. The system disclosed in the '060 does not solve this problem because it has no provision for separating the content into different fidelities for purposes of visual enhancement (i.e., through plug-ins).

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable as presented. In addition, all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-2, 4, 8-9, 11, 15-16, 18, and 30-33 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-8074. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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